Donation of Eyes

*238. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of eyes dontated and pledged for donation by the donors in the country during the last three years, state-wise and year-wise;

(b) what are the reasons for less number of eye donors coming, forward to dontate their eyes; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to encourage people to donate eyes?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) A statement showing the details of eyes pledged for donation and received, State-wise during the last three years by the Eye Banks functioning in the country in annexed. *[See* Appendix 174, Annexure No. 46]

(b) Reluctance on the part of general public due to superstition on donating eyes is the major reason for less number of eye donors coming forward to donate their eyes.

(c) Under the National Programme for control of Blindness (NPCB), one time non-recurring assistance of Rs. 1.50 lakhs and annual recurring, assistance of Rs. 0.50 lakhs is given for the development and maintenance of Eye Banks in the voluntary sector with a view to encourage Eye Donation. Since 1986, a National Fortnignt on Eye Donation is being observed every year from 25th Anugst to 8th September to generate awareness and motivate the people to come forward for Eye Donation.

Central Government Quota of Seats for MBBS Courses

*239. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is Central Government quota of scats for MBBS course in various medical colleges of Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, what are the names of such colleges and the number of such seats, college-wise;

(c) what is the eligibility criteria for admission against these seats;

(d) whether Government have received a number of complaints about mismanagement and irregularities in filling up of these seats; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) College-wise number of MBBS seats in the states of Gujarat and Maharashtra, made available